

# REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th February 1896.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI</b>					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	" 5,000	9th February 1896.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 20,000	8th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	" .....	11th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	7th ditto.	
5	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	" .....	6th ditto.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	" .....	8th ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	5th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	" 4,000	7th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	" 3,000	8th ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	" 800	10th ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	" 200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	" 200	9th to 12th February 1896.	
3	"Samvad Trabhakar" ...	Ditto	" 500	8th, 9th, 12th February 1896.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	" 1,000	7th, 8th and 11th February 1896.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" 800	6th February 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	" 9,000	3rd ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	" .....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	" .....	1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 7th to 9th February 1896.	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Calcutta	" .....	29th January 1896.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	About 400	6th February 1896.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto	" 300	31st ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura	" 500		
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan	350 to 400	4th February 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura	500	9th ditto.	
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto	" .....	9th ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	754	7th ditto.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	PRESIDENCY DIVISION. Khulna ...	350		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	5th February 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200	7th ditto.	
3	"Pratika" ...	Ditto ...	608	7th ditto.	
<b>URIYA.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
<b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>					
1	"Brahma" ...	Cuttack ...	.....		
2	"Indradhanu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ..	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412		
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
<b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	2nd January 1896.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	3rd February 1896.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>					
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....		
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	25th February 1896.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300		
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>					
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Charn Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	3rd February 1896.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450	9th ditto.	
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do. ...	250	8th ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ... BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	Dacca ... CHITTAGONG DIVISION.	500	3rd and 10th February 1896.	
1	"Tripura Prakash" ... <i>Weekly.</i>	Comilla ...	.....		
1	"Sansodhini" ... BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	Chittagong ... ASSAM.	120		
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....	1st fortnight, Magh 1302 B S.	

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

THE *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd February says that Mr. Thomas, late District Superintendent of Police, Mymensingh, appointed

CHARU MIHIR,  
Feb. 3rd, 1896.

A chaukidar in the Mymensingh district. one Jang Bahadur, a notorious habitual offender, as a principal chaukidar under the Kotwali police-station. The man now stands charged under section 170 of the Penal Code with having, in the guise of a head-constable, exacted illegal gratification from the prostitutes of Raipur Bazar. Apart from the question of Jang Bahadur's guilt or innocence in the present case, was it proper for Mr. Thomas to appoint a man, whose name is on the police register among habitual offenders of the "C" class, as a guardian of the peace in a mufassal village? This was but one of the many ill-considered acts by which Mr. Thomas greatly corrupted the Mymensingh police.

2. The same paper says that though the Police Act does not empower constables to arrest people for making water on public roads, the constables in Mymensingh town are always on the alert to catch ignorant mufassal people making water by the riverside, and exact bribes from them in the shape of release money. A few days ago a constable arrested one Abdul Shekh for that offence, and took him to the thana, ill-treating him all along the way. It is hoped that the authorities will enquire into this case and issue instructions to town constables not to arrest people for the above offence.

CHARU MIHIR.

3. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 6th February learns from a correspondent in Purnea that thefts and robberies have become very frequent of late in that part of the country. The writer attributes this recrudescence of crime to the connivance of the police.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Feb. 6th, 1896.

4. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 7th February complains that on 2nd February last, a party of 20 grass-cutters of the 5th Cavalry, stationed at Alipore, entered upon the *ulu* field of one Lachhim Molla, at Mahestala, and committed great damage. The Molla's men opposed them, but were attacked and beaten. At last the police was informed, and came on the spot. But instead of being frightened, the grass-cutters attacked the police itself. Three men have been so seriously wounded in the affray that they have had to be removed to hospital. Policemen, too, have been wounded. None of the grass-cutters has had to be sent to hospital. When the affray ended, 9 of the grass-cutters and 14 saddled horses belonging to them fell into the hands of the police. The dafadar came in the evening and tried to frighten the police into releasing the prisoners. But the police refused to release them without bail. The next morning, when the police was preparing to take the prisoners to Alipore, the dafadar again came and tried to release them by force. The police then gave him a push. This made the dafadar extremely angry. He said, "We are paid by the *sarkar* for fighting, and unless you release my men, I will fight you. If I had some more men with me, I would have taught you a lesson." So long as these men are not checked, the lives and property of the people will not be secure.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

5. The same paper complains that theft has been very rife for the last fortnight in the Colootolla section of the town, specially in Sobharam Basak's Lane. In spite of all precautions, articles are being stolen. The thieves have become so bold that they are stealing after giving previous notice. The other day thieves entered a house in Dhurumtolla Street, and on a servant opposing them, wounded him so severely as to necessitate his removal to hospital. And all this is taking place in the metropolis and in gas-light.

HITAVADI.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

6. The *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd February is astonished to find that while

CHARU MIHIR,  
Feb. 3rd, 1896.

A new system adopted by Mr. Earle for checking crime in the Mymensingh district. in 1894 the number of cases instituted in the Mymensingh district in which the accused were required to execute bonds and furnish security for good behaviour was only 809, in 1895 the number suddenly rose to 3,897. The

writer cannot exactly say in how many of the cases instituted in 1895 the accused were acquitted, but it is certain that in at least 90 per cent. of the cases the accused were made to execute bonds and furnish security. Mr. Earle is said to have adopted this system for putting a stop to crime in his district. If so, he has completely failed in his object, for while in 1894 the total number of criminal cases in the district was 16,146, in 1895 the number rose to 16,407. While the system has thus failed to check crime, it has opened a wide door for police oppression, and has caused great expense and hardship to the people who have been required to furnish security. It is hoped that Mr. Earle will see his mistake and correct it before he leaves the district.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 4th, 1896.

7. It is rumoured, regrets the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 4th February, that Mr. Windsor, the District Magistrate of Burdwan, lately whipped a native driver in the face so violently that the man bled profusely through his ears. The fault of the man was that he drove his carriage across Mr. Windsor's path when he was driving along the main road in Memari in the Burdwan district. The writer would like to see Mr. Windsor contradict the rumour if it is false.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Feb. 5th, 1896.

8. Referring to the case of Naresh Chandra Basu, who was sent up to the Murshidabad Sessions Court charged with the murder of his wife by the application of hydrocyanic acid, the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 5th February observes that the way the trial has ended has not given satisfaction to the public. A mountain was in labour and it has brought forth a mouse. The jury in the case under notice cut a very sorry figure. They did not seem to understand the case well, and were completely non-plussed by the questions put to them by the judge. They often contradicted themselves, and in expressing their opinions on the case, contradicted one another. In the opinion of the public, justice has not been done in the case. The Judge ought to have referred the case to the High Court. In the interest of justice, the Government should appeal against the decision of the Judge.

In cross-examining the witnesses for the prosecution, one of the pleaders for the defence acted in a most uncourteous and ungentlemanly manner. He insulted and tried to discredit the witnesses in a most shameful way. He took for granted that a gentleman had no sense of self-respect merely because he was a police officer. He turned the Sessions Court into a veritable Billingsgate. It is to be hoped that the District Judge should in future put a curb upon the unbridled tongue of the pleaders of his court and protect innocent witnesses against their malicious attacks.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

9. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th February says that since the passing of Act XII of 1887, the powers of the sarishtadars in District Judges' Courts, as regards the appointment of *amla*, have considerably increased. The District Judges have little time to attend to their routine work, and in appointing the *amla*, they have to depend, to a great extent, on their sarishtadars. Where the sarishtadar is a man of education, ability and character, little harm results from this arrangement. But where he is a man who was originally a *muharrir*, his old greed and unscrupulousness are often found to cling to him. It is therefore necessary that the sarishtadar of a District Judge's Court should be a good man, so that he may serve as an example to the lower *amla*. Many competent B. Ls. can now be obtained on the pay which is given to the *sarishtadars*. As a matter of fact, B. Ls. are now serving as sarishtadars at many places. If Government enquires, it will know how smoothly work is being done in this respect in the Alipore and Berhampore District Courts.

The way in which the *amla* are now appointed in the Nadia district is most objectionable. No previous notice is given of the intention of taking in apprentices, and apprentices in that district have little chance of obtaining permanent appointments. The result is that few qualified men apply to be admitted as apprentices in the Nadia courts. Graduates and undergraduates are, as a rule, kept out of the Nadia District court. It was quite by an accident that a man who had passed the Entrance Examination was admitted as an apprentice when Mr. Handley was the District Judge. Apprentices have been working hard there without receiving any remuneration. But when two additional posts of copyist were created, the young son-in-law of the peshkar

and the old pensioned father of the sarishtadar's son-in-law or daughter-in-law were appointed. This was an injustice to the apprentices as well as to the existing staff of copyists, who had their incomes reduced by the creation of the additional posts. There was no need of increasing the number of copyists, but what of that? The son-in-law and the son-in-law's or daughter-in-law's father must be provided for anyhow. The District Judge is requested to see that the number of copyists is not increased further.

The present sarishtadar has been in the Nadia District Court for the last 15 or 16 years. He was lately transferred to Burdwan on promotion. This promotion did not probably prove acceptable to him, for he soon returned to Nadia. Different people assign different reasons for his return. The Accountant of the District Court is a relative of the sarishtadar and the Assistant Accountant is his son. It is said that the son owes his appointment to his father's trick and powerful pen. We shall disclose the mystery in this connection when we have ascertained it by enquiry. The sarishtadar is an inhabitant of the Nadia district. The cases of his friends and relatives are frequently tried in the courts of the district. He is also very intimate with some of the lower amla. Under him, Babu Manicharan Das, who was dismissed for some grave delinquency when serving in a Government office at Kalna, has risen to be the record-keeper of the court. Government is requested to oblige the public by transferring this sarishtadar from Nadia.

10. The same paper hears that Mr. Carnduff will succeed Mr. Handley as Sessions Judge of the 24-Parganas, and asks whether there is no senior District Judge in the service that a young Judge like Mr. Carnduff must be posted to Alipore in that capacity. Only experienced officers have been up to this time appointed to act as Sessions Judges in Alipore. What signal merit may there be in Mr. Carnduff that he should at once be brought over to Alipore? It was only the other day that he was appointed a District Judge and during the short time he acted as Judge at Alipore, he proved a failure. Such a man should not be appointed Sessions Judge of the 24-Parganas.

The mischief which is resulting from the appointment of such young men as District Judges is indescribable. The honour and safety of the public are in the hands of these haughty officers. They also rebuke and insult elderly Munsifs and Subordinate Judges acting under them. These latter officers feel very uncomfortable when a young District Judge comes to inspect their courts. As these young Judges know very little of office work themselves, they entrust the work of inspection to their sarishtadars and Accountants. The Munsifs and Subordinate Judges have therefore to stoop to the humiliation of cajolling sarishtadars and Accountants and even the District Judge's chaprasi, all of whom conduct themselves very haughtily towards the Subordinate Judicial Officers on these occasions.

11. The same paper says that Babu Dwarakanath Mitra, Subordinate Judge of Alipore, is said to hold many certificates of competency from the Judges under whom he has served. The writer was not aware that even Judges were in the habit of procuring certificates, like clerks, from their superior officers. Be that as it may, the writer would advise Babu Dwarakanath Mitra to consider that he can greatly benefit the junior pleaders of his court by giving them commissions in an impartial spirit, and that, being a Judge, the less intimacy he maintains with his relatives the better. Babu Dwarakanath is an intelligent man, and a hint is as good as a word to the wise.

12. The same paper says that the present Judges and Registrar of the Calcutta Small Cause Court pay no heed to the complaints that are made against the peons of that court, and the result is that that court has become a hotbed of corruption. We have heard of a peshkar, who, till lately, obtained a salary of only Rs. 75 per month, and entered service not long ago, but has yet purchased Government securities worth Rs. 30,000 besides building or purchasing a house. His two pockets are two subscription boxes (the subscriptions, of course, not being always voluntary) into which rupees, half-rupees and quarter-rupees are incessantly dropping. He once carried things to such extremes, that even Mr.

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Feb. 7th, 1896.

HITAVADI.

HITAVADI.

Handley's slumber was disturbed. But such is the power of interest and influence, that the very punishment that was meted out to him was an increase of his salary, from Rs. 75 to Rs. 125 and even on promotion he was allowed to remain in the very court in which he was working people's ruin.

Babu Bhutnath Bose, Superintendent of the Warrant Department of that court, got into trouble, and many thought that he would be dismissed. But thanks to Mr. Handley, the man has been punished only with a reduction of his salary from Rs. 100 to Rs. 50. These evils will be remedied only if the Lieutenant-Governor compels the Judges of that court to attend to their duties. Will Sir Alexander Mackenzie do this?

One of the causes of the corruption in the Small Cause Court seems to be the reduction of the salary of the amla and the abolition of many posts—a step which the narrow-minded Sir Charles Elliott took at the recommendation of Mr. Beighton. If the court is to work as satisfactorily as before, the salary of the amla should be increased, and the posts that have been abolished should be revived. Another Small Cause Court Commission should be appointed, or things will remain as bad as they are.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 8th, 1896.

13. Referring to the judgment passed by the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah in a cross case in which one Basanta Bagchi charged some of his neighbours with assault, and the latter charged him with attempt to violate the modesty of a young girl under their guardianship, the *Sanjivani* of the 8th February says that it is somewhat strange that while the Deputy Magistrate has dismissed the case against Basanta, who tried to violate the chastity of a young girl, he has fined those who had sufficient cause for provocation, and only taught a salutary lesson to a misguided young man for which he ought to have been thankful to them.

(c)—Jails.

DAINIK BHARAT  
MITRA,  
Feb. 1st, 1896.

14. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 1st February says that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces lately visited the Etawa jail. His Honour asked the prisoners to acquaint him with their grievances, if they had any. A certain prisoner was bold enough to inform His Honour of the hardships prisoners had to experience in that jail. His Honour ordered an inquiry, and the result was that the jailor was transferred and the pay of the Inspector was reduced. Sir A. P. MacDonnell deserves the thanks of the prisoners of the Etawa jail.

(d)—Education.

PRATIKAR,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

15. The *Pratihar* of the 7th February says that the Calcutta University takes a pride, as it were, in constantly exercising its power of changing the curriculums for the examinations, without taking the trouble to enquire whether any change made would be likely to be beneficial to the boys. The fact is also little heeded that frequent changes of curriculum constitute a great defect in every educational system. For some years drawing has been included in the Entrance Examination curriculum as an optional subject. It has now been decided to make its study compulsory in the sense that a candidate must pass in it in order to be entitled to a scholarship. One fails to see what benefit the boys will derive from a slight knowledge of this subject, specially when most of them will abandon its study as soon as they pass the Entrance Examination. Many schools, moreover, have not the means to employ drawing masters. Under these circumstances it has been a most ill-considered act to make drawing a compulsory subject. It would have been better if surveying instead of drawing had found a place in the Entrance curriculum.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th February is surprised to see Babu Mahendra Nath Roy, M. A., appointed an examiner in Mathematics in the B. A. Examination, while Babu Bepin Bihari Gupta, who passed the M. A. examination with great distinction long before Babu Mahendra Nath, and was prevented only by an accident from winning the Premchand Roychand Scholarship, and who has won golden opinions from all by his ability as a mathematical teacher,

has been appointed an examiner in that subject in the First Arts Examination. It is also said that the Syndicate has decided that none but teachers should be appointed examiners. How is it, then, that Babu Mahendra Nath Roy, who is a pleader, has been appointed an examiner? Babu Mahendra Nath's only merit is that he is a friend of Babu Asutosh Mukharji, who is now all-in-all in the University. What is the University becoming day by day?

17. The same paper complains of the undue influence exercised by two Government officers in the matter of procuring votes for University Fellowships. The first is Babu Atul Chandra Basu, a clerk in the English Department of the Calcutta High Court, who issues his mandate every year to Munsifs and Subordinate Judges to vote for those candidates for Fellowships who may be favoured by him, and this mandate is obeyed by those judicial officers, who do not venture to displease the clerk of an office upon which depends their prospects in the service. The second is Babu Jnan Chandra Chaudhuri of the Bengal Secretariat, who is the Atul Babu of the Deputy Magistrates. He formerly made Chief Secretaries dance as puppets at his will. His power is now much diminished, but not so his pride. He, too, issues his mandate every year to Deputy Magistrates asking them to vote for the candidates who are favoured by him.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

Amateur theatricals by teachers and school-boys in Pabna.

18. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 8th February complains that an amateur theatre party have been formed in Pabna by young graduates, and many teachers of the local High School have joined them. The head-master of the Zilla School has dramatised Bankim Chandra's *Ananda Math* and has put it on the stage. In this book, as everybody knows, there are obscene passages like those contained in the conversation between Santi and Thomas, two principal characters in the play, and these passages are represented on the stage by teachers before an audience consisting mostly of students. The teachers are no doubt setting a very bad and demoralising example to the students.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 8th, 1896.

Sir Alfred Croft on the Dacca Jagannath College.

19. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 10th February does not know whether to feel sorry for, or to laugh at, the reply which was given by Sir Alfred Croft when, on the occasion of his late visit to Dacca, he declined to inspect the Jagannath College, saying that an institution, in which the teaching staff was so frequently changed, should not expect a visit from the Director of Public Instruction. One did not expect such a futile expression of anger from the head of the Education Department. Not the Jagannath College alone, but 99 per cent. of the private institutions affiliated to the University, are given to a most whimsical and scandalous way of dismissing teachers; and why did the Jagannath College, of all others, incur Sir Alfred's displeasure? It is the fault of the educational authorities that they allowed private schools to spring up like mushrooms, without taking from their proprietors guarantees for their efficient management. Now that Sir Alfred Croft has come to see the "dismissal" scandal in private schools, will he remain content with merely snubbing the Jagannath College authorities, or will he take steps that will effectually remedy the evil?

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Feb. 10th, 1896.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

20. The Dacca Municipality, says the *Dacca Gazette* of the 3rd February, has become rotten to the core, and has falsified all the hopes that were entertained for Local Self-Government. The authorities do not put matters right, evidently because they wish to see Local Self-Government discredited and proved a failure. But when full powers of Local Self-Government have not been conferred upon the people, because they are not yet considered fit for such a privilege, it is the duty of Government to exercise a proper supervision over the working of the Dacca Municipality and remove its incompetent Commissioners.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Feb. 3rd, 1896.

21. The *Darussaltanat* and *Urdu Guide* of the 6th February complains of the dirty drains and filthy lanes of the Colootolla section of Calcutta, and requests the municipal authorities to save the people of that quarter from the nuisance complained of.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Feb. 6th, 1896.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Feb. 8th, 1896.

22. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 8th February writes as follows :—

The new assessment in the Deb-  
hatta Municipality in the Khulna  
district.

In 1895 a new assessment was made in the Debhatta Municipality in the Khulna district, and the Chairman published a list of the new assessments under section 112 of the Bengal Municipal Act. The assessments were strongly objected to by the rate-payers, as the total assessment was increased at one bound from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 2,600; and a very large number of petitions were submitted under section 114 for a revision. The fact that such a large number of petitions were submitted against the new assessments was a proof that they were unfair. The appeal committee, after considering the petitions, made remissions in a large number of cases. But hardly had this revision been completed, when the Chairman, on his own authority and without assigning any reason, again enhanced the assessments. It is not at all clear under what authority he interfered in this way with the decisions of the appeal committee. Not improbably he did so under a misapprehension of section 93. The replies given to the late Honourable Kristodas Pal's questions on the occasion of the passing of the section, and the clear exposition of it given by Mr. Dampier, the mover of the Bill of 1876 and by Mr. Collier when the present Municipal Act was discussed in the Council, make it clear, however, that section 93 gives the Chairman no power to enhance the assessments at his option after they have been revised under section 114 by the appeal committee. The section gives the Chairman power to disturb an assessment within three years, only in a case in which it is proved that the assessment made involved a mistake or fraud. Mr. Dampier said that "the essence of the provision was that the assessment was made by mistake or fraud; according to the wording it must have been inadequate, and have been so made by mistake or fraud." And Mr. Collier said :—"It is clear from the above that the only case in which the assessment can be disturbed before the expiration of three years is where there has been mistake or fraud." Section 92 gives an assessee the right of claiming a reduction of assessment within three years, if at any time during that period his circumstances become reduced. Probably the Chairman concluded that an assessment was liable to enhancement within three years if, during that period, the assessee's circumstances underwent any improvement. But the Legislature foresaw the mischief that would be done by conferring this power upon the Chairman, and provided for enhancement in section 93 only in cases in which there was mistake or fraud at the outset.

BANGANIVASI,  
Feb. 9th, 1896.

23. The motive of the Government, observes the *Banganivasi* of the 9th February, in issuing the Resolution on the pollution

Pollution of river water in  
Bengal.

of river water in Bengal, is certainly praiseworthy.

But there is one question to be asked. Will the Resolution in any way interfere with the Hindu practice of consigning a certain portion of the dead body which has been cremated into the water of a river? It is to be hoped that the Government will take this point into its consideration.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Feb. 10th, 1896.

24. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 10th February expresses satisfaction with the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the pollution of the water of rivers in Bengal, and thus comments upon it :—

Every rule has its exception, and although it is a general rule with the Hindus to burn their dead, the burning of the dead has been, in some cases, strictly prohibited by the *shastras*. Those who commit suicide or are killed by low caste men like *chandals* are denied purification by burning. Cremation is also denied to infants and to ascetics, such as *Sannyasis* and *Paramhansas*. When a woman in the family way dies, she requires to be cremated after the child in the womb has been separated from her. Persons killed by snake-bite must not be burnt, as men apparently dead from snake-bite have been known to revive.

These exceptions to the rule about burning the dead are known to all except the Secretary to the British Indian Association, where the Babu element now predominates. The opinion expressed by the Association is not, therefore, justified by anything contained in the *shastras*, and it is a great relief to find that the Lieutenant-Governor has attached much less importance to it than to those of the Hindu Maharajas of Darbhanga and Hutwa, who have advised the

Government not to interfere with the practice of throwing the dead bodies of Hindu ascetics into rivers. It is no doubt a matter of congratulation that in this matter the Lieutenant-Governor has shown great consideration for Hindu feeling, and has not even hesitated to go against the unHindu opinion of the majority of Magistrates and Commissioners, native as well as European. It is strange that of these, even Mr. Batavyal, who was educated in the Sanskrit College, and professes to be a *shastra*-knowing Hindu, should give an erroneous and unHindu opinion on one of the most vital questions concerning Hindu society. But the Lieutenant-Governor, it appears, knows how to rate at its true value all opinions regarding Hindu society given by anglicised and Babu-Hindus like Messrs. Palit and Batavyal. The dead bodies of Hindu ascetics may not be thrown into the Dwarakeswar, and Kishnagar and Radhanagar may not receive visits from Sannyasis; but the Hindu Secretary to the British Indian Association, and the native Magistrate of Bogra, ought to have known that the corpses of Sannyasis and Paramhansas are still thrown into rivers in many parts of Bengal.

The letter of one Babu Syamacharan Chatterji, B.A., M.B., of Gosain-Durgapur, has, most probably through the manipulation of the Secretary, found a prominent place in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Fortunately, however, the Lieutenant-Governor has not attached much importance to the opinion of this medical practitioner, whose ignorance of the Hindu *shastras* is only equalled by his ignorance of Hindu society. From a solitary instance where he may have found a poor man getting assistance from his neighbours in burning the dead body of a relative, this gentleman has at once jumped to the conclusion that the poor in this country never stand in need of help in burning the dead. He also betrays lamentable ignorance when he says that it does not cost one much to burn a dead body. The fact is that not less than five *maunds* of *sundri* wood are required in cremating a dead body, and five *maunds* of wood cannot be had for the asking. The Lieutenant-Governor, we are glad to find, has rejected the worthless opinion of the medical practitioner of Gosain-Durgapur, and has accepted the opinion expressed not only by the British Indian Association but also by the majority of the Magistrates and Commissioners, that the poor in many parts of Bengal cannot always afford the expense of burning their dead. At the same time, however, he has most wisely declined to compel—as the British Indian Association would have him do—the panchayets and village unions to provide the poor with the means of burning their dead.

In one, and only one point, the Lieutenant Governor has been misled by official opinion. He has been prevailed upon to believe that it is not, after all, very difficult even for poor Hindus to bear the cost of cremation, which is “trifling compared with the sums spent on even the humblest marriages.” Is logic a sealed book to the Civil Service? There can be no comparison between death and marriage. Death often comes all of a sudden and unexpectedly. Even the poor get time enough to make preparations for marriages in their families whilst they can make no such preparation for deaths. This is a fact too patent to be ignored by any but officials like Mr. Westmacott and medical practitioners like the one of Gosain-Durgapur. But the Lieutenant-Governor has got very good advice from Mr. Wheeler, Magistrate of Monghyr, and the Maharaja of Sonbursa, who warn the Government against interfering in any way with the religious practices of the Hindus.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution is on the whole satisfactory, and is just what one should expect from an official like Sir Alexander Mackenzie. His Honour does not see the necessity of making any rigorous rule prohibiting the practice of throwing of dead bodies into rivers. The steps that he proposes to take are such as will not interfere with the religious practices of the people or “harass them with impracticable reforms,” while they will no doubt put down the nuisance whenever and wherever possible. If the Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor be given effect to in the spirit in which it has been written, there will be nothing in it to object to.

25. A correspondent of the *Hitaishi* of the 11th February recommends the appointment of Mr. Bolton to the Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality. Mr. Bolton is an able and experienced Civilian, and is a well-wisher of the Bengalis. If Mr. Bolton is not selected for the post, Mr. Williams should be.

The Chairmanship of the Calcutta Municipality.

HITAISHI  
Feb. 11th, 1896.

He has a cool head and a sweet temper, and is never in the habit of doing an ill turn to his subordinates.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

BANGAVASI,  
Feb. 8th, 1896.

26. The *Bangavasi* of the 8th February understands that there is scarcity of water in Jibannagar, an estate belonging to Maharaja Durgacharan Law in the Nadia district. The zamindar's feeling for his tenant. Mr. Garrett, the District Magistrate of Nadia, had been to this place and assured himself of the existence of the scarcity of water experienced by the Maharaja's tenants. He drew the Maharaja's attention to the matter, and asked him to dig a well in the place and remove the grievance of the people. The Maharaja, however, has declined to dig a well at his own cost, and asked the Magistrate to help the people of Jibannagar out of the Road Cess Fund. The Maharaja's answer has certainly been right according to the law, but will it give his tenants any relief? The conduct of the Maharaja shows that the zamindars of these days do not regard their tenants with parental sympathy and affection as their predecessors did.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

SAHACHAR,  
Feb. 5th, 1896.

27. The *Sahachar* of the 5th February writes as follows:—

The railway accident on the Diamond Harbour line. Why do accidents occur on railway lines? This question with its answer not only constantly arises in the minds of the railway travelling public, but is always present in the minds of all railway authorities too. Why, then, is nothing done to prevent such accidents? The fact is that in their anxiety to save a little money, the railway authorities risk the lives of passengers, and not unoften incur heavy pecuniary loss themselves. The staff of a railway station ought to consist of one station-master, one assistant station-master, two booking-clerks, two signallers, two ticket-collectors, and a sufficient number of porters, policemen, pointsmen and jamadars. All these and the menials may be natives on moderate salaries. An experienced native station-master may be had for Rs. 40 a month or even less, an assistant station-master for Rs. 20 to Rs. 30, ticket-collectors and booking-clerks for Rs. 15 each, signallers for Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, or at most Rs. 30 each, porters, &c., for Rs. 7-8 each, and jamadars for Rs. 15 each. Thus, a station staff need not cost more than Rs. 200 a month. But the authorities grudge even this expense, and in many stations make the station-master discharge the duties of assistant station-master, booking-clerk, ticket-collector and signaller too. It is difficult to understand how one man can discharge all these various functions.

Every station, moreover, ought to be connected with the telegraph system of the line. In the absence of telegraphic communication with the stations on both sides, a station staff must be quite at a loss how to time their trains. It is the want of such communication at all stations on the Eastern Bengal State Railway that causes collisions and other accidents so frequently on that line. The recent accident between Nazra and Diamond Harbour on the southern section of that line, was due solely to this cause. At 8 P.M. on the day of the accident, a goods train was started from the Diamond Harbour station. This train comes direct to Nazra without stopping at any intermediate station. Before its arrival at Nazra, the station-master of that station, who has often to do the duties of signaller and booking-clerk, by mistake started from his station the passenger train which left Calcutta at 5-35 P.M. The poor man saw his mistake two minutes after starting the train, but could not do anything to prevent an accident, because there was no telegraphic communication between his station and the next station on the Diamond Harbour side. A collision between the trains took place, causing the destruction of the two engines and five or six carriages in each train. No loss of life took place, as happily the greater part of the passengers had alighted at the Magra station.

Now, who is to blame for this accident? The accident could certainly have been averted if Nazra had been connected by telegraph with the next station on the Diamond Harbour side. But the authorities have saved Rs. 15 a month by leaving that station without such telegraph communication. Though there has been no loss of life, the railway authorities have suffered a

pecuniary loss of not less than eighty to ninety thousand rupees by the destruction of engines and carriages, &c. And, apart from the pecuniary loss, the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway have made themselves responsible to Government and lost the confidence of the public?

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th February draws the attention of the Agent of the East Indian Railway to the following account of railway oppression communicated to it by a correspondent:—

A case of railway oppression.

I started from Umballa with a friend on the 22nd January last to travel by rail to Calcutta. We took intermediate-class tickets. Our tickets were examined at the intermediate stations. When the train reached Mokameh, a short and dark Eurasian examined our tickets and told us that the term of our tickets had expired, and that we must pay the fare from Umballa. We asked him to telegraph to Umballa to know how the matter stood. Without answering us, he told us to alight, which we did, informing him at the same time that we were going to Calcutta on urgent business. When the train left, the Eurasian officer went away with our tickets. We went in search of him, but he did not attend to us. After we had waited for more than an hour, the officer returned, and, restoring to us our tickets, said that they were all right. We then pressed him to write down on the tickets that he had caused us to alight from the train. This he refused to do. We then made a written representation to the station-master, who wrote on it as follows:—"They were told to go by 10-D Loop Mail after deciding the case." This is a lie, for the Loop Mail in question came only 16 minutes after the train in which we were. How was it then possible for him to attend to us in the interval, instead of preparing to receive that train?

(h)—General.

29. A resident of Kalihati in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, writing in the *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd February, says that the proposed sub-registry office at Kalihati, whose creation has been sanctioned, should, in order to be able to benefit the residents of Kalihati, have concurrent jurisdiction with the office at Tangail, because Kalihati has a very wide jurisdiction, and many villages within its jurisdiction are very near to Tangail. The civil courts of Kalihati being at Tangail, suitors will be seriously inconvenienced if they are not allowed to use the Tangail sub-registry office.

A proposed sub-registry office in the Mymensingh district.

30. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 3rd February has the following:—

The question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam.

Sir Charles Elliott's whim is about to lead to the amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam. And what guarantee is there that the whim of a future ruler may not lead to the abolition of the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. What, in that case, would become of the Bengalis' vaunted privilege of Local Self-Government and of his privilege of electing members for the Legislative Councils? The greater part of the Chittagong Division is owned by landholders residing in other districts. The Ganga Mandal pargana in the Tippera district, for instance, is owned by the Raj family of Sobhabazar in Calcutta. Mr. Curzon's entire estate is under the management of Maharaja Durgacharan Law, and the greater part of the Noakhali district is owned partly by the Paikpara family and partly by the Bhukailas family. Are not these zamindars aware of the jhum regulation of Assam, and of the fact that in Assam the road-cess is heavier than the land revenue? If they know all this, why are they silent now? The British Indian Association would not certainly have remained so inert in this matter if Kristodas had been living to-day. In spite of the request of the Tippera Hitasadhini Sabha to agitate the subject, the present Secretary of the Association, Rai Sarvadhikari Bahadur, appears unwilling to take any action without first knowing the attitude of Government. But he should remember that it is best to strike the iron while it is hot. The people of the Chittagong Division are loudly protesting against the proposal. Protest meetings have been held at Kasba, Chandpur, Fenny, and Chittagong. The British Indian Association and every other public body having the slightest influence with Government should press upon the Government the people's objections to the transfer.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Feb. 3rd, 1896.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Feb. 3rd, 1896.

**BNARAT MITRA,**  
Feb. 6th, 1896.

31. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 6th February regrets to learn that the address of the *Mahajan Sabha* was not accepted by His Excellency the Viceroy. His Excellency has set a bad example to his subordinates. Some time ago, when Sir A. P. MacDonnell was at Benares, the Divisional Commissioner did not allow two Sabhas to submit their petitions to His Honour. This is certainly bad. The Government should receive and take into consideration the petitions of the people and try to redress their grievances.

**HITAVADI,**  
Feb. 6th, 1896.

32. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th February writes as follows:—  
The proposed amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam. Even the *Pioneer* unites with the people in condemning the proposal to amalgamate the Chittagong Division with Assam. But the *Indian Daily News*, which has now strayed into another fold, has not hesitated to express itself in favour of the measure. We could have very well tolerated this difference of opinion; for it would be unreasonable to expect perfect agreement on all subjects. But not content with approving of the amalgamation scheme, our contemporary has attempted to make the native papers appear ridiculous and worthless, and this makes it necessary for us to say a few words.

Our contemporary writes:—

"The *Hitavadi* asks 'for what offence should the people of that Division be deprived of their rights and classified with savage people like the Lushais and Kukis?' As to the rights they will be deprived of, these will be found to chiefly resolve themselves into the fact that the Municipalities or District Boards of this Division will lose the opportunity of voting when their rotation comes round for a member of the Bengal Council. Truly a public calamity!

"How they are 'classed with Kukis or Lushais,' except by being ruled by the same Government, it is difficult to see; and they seem to have forgotten that even under Bengal they must on the same grounds consider themselves as classed with such savages as the Khonds of Orissa and the aborigines of Chota Nagpur."

In the first place, the *Daily News* has failed to give an accurate English version of what we wrote. What we wrote was—"What have the people of Chittagong, Noakhali, and Tippera done that they should be deprived of the protection of the laws in force in Bengal and classed with Lushais and Kukis." Our contemporary fails to see how the people of those districts will be classed with Lushais and Kukis, except that they will be subject to the same Government. We will try to explain.

Whether our contemporary knows it or not, settlements, tenancy matters, and revenue collections are regulated in Assam by rules totally different from those which govern these things in Bengal. Assam is a non-regulation province. All the provinces, it is true, are British territory, but the laws and the measures of self-government in each province have been determined with reference to the education and enlightenment of its people. If the Chittagong Division is amalgamated with Assam, the people of that Division will be deprived of many of their rights, and different laws will give rise to much unnecessary litigation among them. The matters which in Bengal are decided by the Board of Revenue will, in Assam, be decided by the Chief Commissioner. Has our contemporary thought over these things? Our contemporary now probably sees the difference between being subject to the same Government with the Sonthals of Chota Nagpur and the Khonds of Orissa, in a vast province like Bengal, and being subject to the same laws and regulations with Lushais and Kukis in a small province like Assam.

Nor will fear of our contemporary's ridicule compel us to say that the loss to Chittagong of the right of returning a member to the Legislative Council would not be a public calamity. What, after all, is a public calamity? If the *Indian Daily News* were to be deprived to-day of the right of obtaining telegrams, that would be a public calamity, and whether our contemporary saw this or not, everybody else would see it. The loss by a single individual or a portion of any community of a public right is undoubtedly a public harm. We have not yet received a large measure of self-government and of the elective franchise, and we are aware that such election as we have is not properly election, but only the prelude to it. But if the *Daily News* had been aware how hard we had to struggle, and what an amount of petitioning and agitation we

had to make to secure this small privilege, he would not have laughed at us. We value this privilege, small as it is. If we are deprived even of the small privilege we have obtained, how shall we expect to get more?

Can the *Daily News* form an idea of the howl that would be raised in Great Britain for the sake of a geographical name only, if a part of England were amalgamated with Scotland or a part of Wales with England?

In the matter of employment in the public service, also, there is a great difference between Bengal and Assam. In Bengal, in consequence of the spread of English education and at the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, the doors of the higher public service have been thrown open to the people to an extent quite unknown in Assam, where the Government has not been able, having regard to the condition of the people, to introduce the same rule. It is certain that for some time to come, at any rate, the rules in that respect will not be so liberal in Assam as in Bengal. What tract of country can, under these circumstances, be willing to be detached from Bengal and joined to Assam?

We did not say that on the amalgamation of the Chittagong Division with Assam, the people of that Division would be turned into Kukis and Lushais. We have now, we hope, demonstrated clearly enough in what way they will be classed with Kukis and Lushais. We have only briefly discussed whether the people will be really dissatisfied, and whether they have really any cause for dissatisfaction. We have not discussed at all for what profit what officers of Government want to increase the area of Assam, how the general administration will be facilitated by such extension of area, and what the advantage so secured will be worth, having regard to the inconvenience it will entail. We ask the *Daily News* itself to reflect over these matters.

In conclusion, we would remark that various weighty reasons have been shown against the proposed amalgamation in public petitions, in the memorial of the Tippera *Hitasadhini Sabha*, and in the *Dacca Gazette* and other newspapers. If our able contemporary cares to understand rather than to pick holes, and carefully reflects over the public interest involved, he will easily see that the proposal for the amalgamation is, in fact, a proposal for the mutilation of Bengal, and that the people of the Chittagong Division have a real cause for alarm and uneasiness. If our contemporary reflects a little carefully, he will have no hesitation in admitting what even the *Pioneer* has admitted. We will another time say many other things about Assam.

33. The same paper says that Government now gets a good deal of its work done by unpaid officers. There are not only unpaid Magistrates, but also unpaid clerks and unpaid amla. Any advantage that the apprentice system may possess is more than counterbalanced by its disadvantages. In the first place it creates an impression in the public mind that the Government has no money, and is therefore obliged to have recourse to unpaid service. In the second place Government turns out, after two or three years, many of these apprentices who have worked as hard as any paid officers and who are rebuked and even prosecuted if necessary. Lately, an apprentice boy in the Railway Mail Service was committed to the Sessions. Government has perhaps an impression that an apprentice who cannot secure a post in the course of three years must be worthless, and hence the rule that an apprentice shall not be kept in an office for more than three years. But the securing of a post, it should be remembered, does not always depend upon qualifications. To make a man work for two or three years by holding out to him the hope of a permanent appointment, and then to turn him out is, in a manner, to practice a deceit. In the third place, what confidence can be placed in these apprentices, who are, for the most part, needy, half-educated young men. These apprentices have access to all official papers and information. What is there to hinder them from pocketing small sums of money, if they can, by giving out official secrets? Sometimes the file of a particular case is found to have vanished altogether from a law court. What is there that one cannot get done by such unpaid officers? The paid officers often get these apprentices to do wrong acts, the reward for which they themselves pocket making scape-goats of these unfortunate men. Will not Government think over this matter?

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 6th, 1896.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 8th, 1896.

34. A rumour is afloat, says the *Sanjivani* of the 8th February, that Sir Antony MacDonnell, Lieutenant Governor of the North-Western Provinces, has resolved not to go to the hills during the coming summer, but to reside at Lucknow. Will this rumour turn out to be true? Sir Antony MacDonnell will no doubt set a very wholesome example to his brother officials, and entitle himself to the gratitude of the Indian people if he actually abandons the practice of going to the hills, a practice which prejudicially affects the administration of the country, and against which the Indian people have always protested.

SANJIVANI.

35. The same paper complains that Mr. Sandell, the Comptroller of Postal Accounts, India, does not keep his unruly and discourteous Eurasian and Anglo-Indian subordinates in check, and the native clerks are very much ill used by them. Here is an instance in point. Mr. Jewell is a Eurasian auditor in the Comptroller's office, drawing a pay of ninety rupees a month. He has three native sub-auditors under him. But even with their help he cannot finish his work in time, so very inexperienced is he in his work. He is never in the habit of attending to letters before they are three or four days old, and destroys very old and stale letters to prevent any suspicion being entertained about his incapacity and indolence. On Saturdays, when other offices close at 2 P.M., Mr. Jewell keeps his men waiting up to 5 o'clock. He is also very discourteous to his subordinates and calls them fools and stupid. A few weeks ago he abused a clerk under him and called him stupid. "Is the bill auditor," he asked this clerk, "your grandfather," and when the latter remonstrated he was told to "go and report the matter to the Comptroller." The innocent clerk did report the matter to the Comptroller on the 28th January last. But as the Comptroller does not attend to any petition or complaint which does not reach him through one of the postal Superintendents, the poor clerk was compelled to lodge his petition with Mr. Vernieux, the Superintendent of his division. This gentleman has, however, shelved his petition, and he has therefore no chance of being heard. It is said that Mr. Jewell not long ago slapped a sweeper. The latter represented the matter to the Comptroller, but his petition too was shelved by the Superintendent. When Mr. Jewell was in another department he committed many blunders in preparing abstracts of accounts. The Superintendent of the division was a Bengali, and he did not venture to report the matter to the higher authorities. It is this Mr. Jewell who has been promoted from a post of Rs. 55 to that of Rs. 90 in supersession of the claims of abler assistants.

Jobberies are committed by the Comptroller in the matter of promotion. Only a few days ago a junior assistant was appointed to officiate in the post of a Superintendent on leave. This fortunate individual, Mr. Stephens, is, however, so incompetent an auditor that he cannot do his duty without the help of able sub-auditors. He, too, is in the habit of conducting himself very discourteously towards the native clerks and Superintendents, and never even calls them Babu. The attention of the Government should be drawn to the jobberies in the Comptroller's office.

HITAISHI,  
Feb. 11th, 1896.

36. The *Hitaishi* of the 11th February objects to the appointment of Mr. Konstam as an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the General and Revenue Departments. During the rule of Sir Charles Elliott the promotion of an official like Mr. Konstam would not have surprised the public, but it is a matter of regret that even a Lieutenant-Governor like Sir Alexander Mackenzie should promote an inexperienced and hot-headed official to a high and responsible post. A better and more popular man ought to have been selected for the office.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Feb. 3rd, 1896.

37. The *Charu Mihir* of the 3rd February writes as follows:—

Cotton Duties and Tariff Acts  
Amendment Bills.

Everybody sees what effect protests will produce. The country may ring with protests from one extremity to the other, but no one will heed them, and the Secretary of State's order will be carried out. The Legislative Council, devoid of conscience and all sense of duty and responsibility to the country, will only register the mandate of the Secretary of State. Not only will the

proposed alteration of the cotton duties increase the prices of coarse cotton goods and thereby add to the hardship of the poor, but it will in many cases impose a fatally heavy burden on the infant cotton industry of the country. On the one hand, Manchester is pushing that industry hard, and on the other, China and Japan are fast becoming its rivals. So long the Bombay mills have found profitable markets in both China and Japan, but Japan is taking to the cotton industry, and it may not be long before it sets up a keen rivalry with India. But the Government of India is insensible to this imminent danger to the cotton industry of the country.

But when there is no hope that Government will provide a remedy, the people must themselves devise one that will be effective. All honour to Bombay: she alone has not been content with making an empty protest. A large number of the residents of that presidency have taken a resolution not to use Manchester goods. It is mental strength of this kind which has brought America to its present state of prosperity, and it is hoped that the Bombay people, in whose veins the blood of Sivaji still runs and whose patriotism and sympathy with their fellow countrymen are not spent in lip oratory and paper resolutions, will stick to their resolution. But when will Bengal take a similar resolution? Will the people of Bengal never be able to take the resolution not to use any but Indian cotton goods? The writer is ashamed to say that he has not himself been yet able to eschew the use of foreign cloth. There is, however, no way of checking Manchester except by boycotting her goods. She will not be roused to her senses if a serious blow is not struck at her interests.

In introducing the Bill, Sir James Westland said that he was in a position to reduce the duty on cotton goods, because the condition of the finances had improved. But who believed the Finance Member when he said this? Who can believe the country to be in easy circumstances whose famine fund has to be eaten up and in which all works of internal improvement are stopped for want of funds? The people hoped that under Lord Elgin they would have the days of Lord Ripon brought back to them. But, alas, they are sadly disappointed!

38. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 6th February says that the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill, which has been submitted before the Legislative Council, gives the District Judges and Divisional Commissioners the power to dismiss any pleader who may commit an offence under the provisions of the Bill. A meeting was held at the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Honorable Babu Ishan Chunder Mitra, to protest against the measure, and about 125 delegates from 30 different districts of Bengal were present on the occasion. In the opinion of the writer it will be as dangerous to arm the District Officers with the power to disbar a pleader as it will be to give a sword to a drunkard. The proposed measure will prejudicially affect the legal practitioners in the district courts.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
Feb. 6th, 1896.

39. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th February makes the following comments on the passing of the Cotton Duties and Tariff Act Amendment Bills:—

The passing of the Cotton Duties  
and Tariff Act Amendment Bills.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 8th, 1896.

By the passing of the Cotton Duties and Tariff Acts Amendment Bills the duty on European piece-goods is reduced, and the Government loses a revenue of fifty lakhs of rupees a year. A duty is levied on piece-goods used by the poorer classes, and the Indian cotton mills are made to suffer. The Government has thus passed the Bills at the cost of India in order to please Lancashire.

Sir James Westland, in passing the Bills, observed that India was not an isolated, independent country like the United States. It was a part and parcel of the British Empire, and so the Government of India could not afford to promote Indian interests even at the cost of British trade and manufacture. The Finance Member need not have taken the trouble to remind us that India was not an independent country. Every Indian knows that fact too well, and it is also not unknown to him that the Government of India cannot maintain its existence for a single day by ignoring the interests of British merchants, or by doing anything in the least calculated to injure those interests. This is the chief reason why Indian trade and manufacture cannot flourish. The British Government levies a heavy duty on the gold and silver manufactures exported to England from India. The question of Imperial interests does not then

arise. It is not then remembered that England too is but a part of the British Empire.

In reply to the objection that the passing of the measure would shift a portion of the burden of taxation from the shoulders of the richer on to those of the poorer classes, the Finance Member observed that fine clothes imported from Europe were used not only by the rich, but also by the poor in this country, and that the incidence of the duty to be levied would be not more than between seven pies and half a pice per head per year. The Finance Member is apparently ignorant of the fact that the cloth-dealer raises the price of cloth by four times the amount of the duty which is imposed on it. When the Government imposed a duty of five *per cent.* on cotton goods, a pair of cloths which used to sell at one rupee before the imposition of the duty ought to have sold at one rupee and nine pies. But the cloth-dealers raised its price to one rupee and four annas. It is thus quite clear that the burden which the poor will have henceforth to bear will not be a very light one. The Finance Member expressed his surprise that the people should object to the Government lightening their burden of taxation, and should foolishly believe that the amount of taxation thus reduced would go to the pocket of Lancashire. But Sir James Westland will have no cause for surprise when he will understand that the people do not object to reduction of taxation, but to the shifting of the burden thereof from the shoulders of the rich on to those of the poor.

As was naturally expected, all the non-official members of the Council, Indian as well as Anglo-Indian, strongly protested against the passing of the measure. What, however, was an agreeable surprise to the public, was that our Lieutenant-Governor also protested against the passing of the measure. It no doubt required a good deal of moral courage on his part to oppose an official measure, when all the officials, from the Viceroy downwards, defended it tooth and nail. The Lieutenant-Governor has thus shown that he will not hesitate to protest against what may appear to him palpably wrong and unjustifiable.

40. The *Darsak* of the 9th February writes as follows:—

DARSAN,  
Feb. 9th, 1896.

The passing of the Cotton Duties  
and Tariff Bills.

In the matter of the cotton duty legislation, the Government gauged public opinion on the measure long before it was passed, and public opinion was clear enough in the matter. The Bombay mill-owners gave the Government the best possible advice. They showed it how to cut the Gordian knot, how to please Lancashire without ruining the Indian cotton industry or sacrificing its revenue. But the Government proved deaf to this counsel. It did not follow the policy of compromise, but yielded uncompromisingly to Lancashire clamour. The question is, if the Government had already made up its mind to sacrifice Indian interests on the altar of Lancashire, why did it at all make the pretence of consulting Indian interests; why did it take the trouble to gauge public opinion; why did it allow a great farce to be enacted in the Legislative Council and court an empty and fruitless discussion on the measure? Was this not only a diplomatic way of throwing dust in the eye of the public? The impression in the public mind is not after all unfounded that whenever the Government makes up its mind to do a thing it does it, and there is no resisting it. The opinion of the non-official members counts for nothing when it clashes with official opinion. If this is so, what is the use of keeping non-official members in the Council? Why this show of legislative reform? Better abolish the Legislative Councils instead of keeping them only for show.

There was one thing in the speech of Sir James Westland which calls for notice. India, said he, was not an isolated kingdom; it was not a whole, but the part of a whole; not a sovereign State, but a dependency. It was a part of the vast British Empire, and as such, it could not ignore the interests of the other parts. The Government of India could not do anything to promote Indian interests at the cost of the interests of the British people. We have no quarrel with the Finance Minister for his bold statement. But if this is the principle you follow, why, inconsistently enough, do you go through the meaningless formality of a discussion before you pass a Bill? Why did you not lay down in the preamble to the Cotton Duties Bill—"Whereas it is found that the imposition of a cotton duty is disadvantageous to the

mill-owners of Lancashire and prevents them from competing successfully with the Bombay mill-owners, it is hereby enacted that the duty on Lancashire goods will be reduced thirty *per cent.*, and the duty on Indian machine-made piece-goods will be raised three hundred *per cent.*"? This would have done extremely well. It would not have provoked opposition, protest or discussion.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal showed remarkable independence and a broad sympathy with the people in the speech in which he opposed the measure. He plainly said that, listening with all his ears, he could not follow the speech of the Finance Member, thus giving out the broad hint that Sir James Westland's cut-and-dried arguments were but empty sound. He maintained that it was not advisable to sacrifice a large revenue at a time when the Indian finances had by no means showed any improvement, and supposing financial condition of the Government to have improved, there were a hundred and one better ways in which the surplus revenue could be spent. He warned the Government against giving up a large surplus at a time when the actual spectre of famine was grinning at it from behind the door of the North-Western Provinces. Bengal is sure to prosper under the rule of Sir Alexander Mackenzie if he keeps up this spirit of independence and this broad sympathy with the subject people.

41. The *Banganivasi* of the 9th February makes the following observations on the passing of the Cotton Duties and Tariff Bills:—

The cotton duty legislation.

Lord Spencer, a distinguished English statesman, was present at the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council in which the Cotton Duties and Tariff Bills were passed. What did he think of the conduct of the Government? Was he not surprised to see it carrying out the behest of the Home Government in the teeth of the opposition of the public and in total disregard of the protest of the non-official members? Was he not surprised to find that even the just protest of the representatives of the people was of no avail against the obstinacy of the officials?

When the Cotton Duties Act was first passed, the Finance Member assured the public that it would be the final measure of the subject. But there has soon arisen the necessity of repealing that Act and passing a new one in its place. At the last meeting of the Council, the Viceroy, when pressed by two Hon'ble Members, emphatically said that he could not give—in fact, he had no right to give—any undertaking about the finality of the measure. When the President of the Council and the leading official member, like the Finance Member, differ in opinion on a question of such vital importance, how can the people place any reliance whatever on the Government?

The way the Lieutenant-Governor acquitted himself on the occasion of passing the objectionable measure certainly does him credit. It is quite clear that he had serious objection against the Bills, and did not hesitate to give out his mind. He did not even mince his words. "Listening with all my ears", he said, "I have not been able to follow clearly and completely the very rapidly-read paper with which the Financial Member has favoured us." He also warned the Government against giving up a revenue of fifty lakhs of rupees a year at a time when "the actual spectre of famine was ginning at it from behind the door of the North-Western Provinces." Why did the Supreme Government shut its ears against the counsel of the responsible ruler of a Province?

The majority of the official members kept discreetly silent on the occasion of passing of the measure. Their condition was pitiable. Did they consider the measure so unjust and iniquitous that they could not induce their conscience to approve it? Did they fear that their tongue would betray their feeling? As rulers of a foreign country such conduct did them great discredit.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

42. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 1st February requests His Excellency the Viceroy to consider the case of the Maharana of Jhalwar. His Excellency should not be

Jhalwar.

guided in this matter by the reports of the enemies of the Maharana and by those of the Political Agent. The father of the Maharana rendered good and faithful service to the Government during the Sepoy Mutiny. From that time

BANGANIVASI,  
Feb. 9th, 1896.

DAINIK BHARAT  
MITRA,  
Feb. 1st, 1896.

forth Jhalwar has been under the protection of the British Government. Before the Maharana's guilt is proved, the Government should not consider him a rebel.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Feb. 9th, 1896.

43. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 9th February makes the following observations on Mr. Woodburn's reply to Rao Sahib Balwant Rao Bhuskate's question relating to the fate of the Maharaja of Patna:—

Mr. Woodburn on the Patna affair.

Mr. Woodburn said that the Maharaja's mother was of unsound mind, and the Maharaja himself was undoubtedly insane when he committed the murder and suicide. If Mr. Woodburn is to be believed, then must it be admitted that, like Hamlet, the Maharaja had perfect sense in the midst of his madness. For, according to the new paper accounts of the Maharaja's conduct before the perpetration of the tragedy, he always treated his wife well, and, even on the fatal day, explained to her the impossibility of continuing to bear the burden of a life like his, prepared her for the next world, and then shot her dead. He took his own life immediately after. Does a man who commits murder in madness, take his own life immediately after? What does medical jurisprudence say?

Mr. Woodburn also said that the Maharaja from time to time displayed eccentricities in his conduct, was impatient of restraint, and in his distant and isolated capital formed exaggerated ideas of his own power and importance. These circumstances, said the Home Member, threw sufficient light on the Maharaja's madness. But in the very next breath, Mr. Woodburn admitted that the Maharaja had been readily amenable to reproof and counsel, and that though he himself, as Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, had to take the Maharaja to task for outbreaks of temper, the Maharaja was in bearing and conversation so uniformly frank, courteous and amiable as to remove every suspicion about his character or intellect having been seriously warped. What ground is there, then, for Mr. Woodburn's supposition that the Maharaja was insane when he committed the murder? As the son does not invariably inherit the mental imbecility of his mother, Mr. Woodburn felt that his statement that the Maharaja was mad because his mother was mad, might not be implicitly accepted, and he therefore saw the necessity of furnishing corroborative evidence by saying that the Maharaja had outbreaks of unfounded fear and suspicion of his wife, servants and surroundings. Nobody, however, knows that the Maharaja had reason to entertain such fear and suspicion to an extent that might lead him to take his wife's life and his own, especially when the Maharani, as Mr. Woodburn himself admitted, bore an exemplary character. It is not also clear how, whilst attributing outbreaks of fear and suspicion to the Maharaja, the Home Member said that the Maharaja seemed calm and reasonable when he visited the Political Agent. There can then be no denying that, if the Maharaja was really mad, as the Home Member said he was, there was greater 'method in his madness' than even in that of Hamlet.

As a matter of fact, the Maharaja dearly loved his wife. It was the insults heaped upon him by the Political Agent, nay, by even that officer's *chaprasi*, which became too much for him, and brought him at one time to Calcutta with a view of laying his grievances before the Viceroy. When at Calcutta, he saw the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and on his return to his State, wrote him several letters. There was nothing, however, in his talk, behaviour or letters that indicated madness. But when the former Chief Commissioner says the Maharaja was mad, one must believe the statement on pain of being oneself sent to a lunatic asylum by the all-powerful Home Member. Mr. Woodburn said that "restrictions were imposed on the powers of the Maharaja, which were not imposed on the two other young chiefs who were installed along with him in 1894, and under these restrictions he chafed." The public belief is that it was these harsh restrictions which led the Maharaja to kill his wife and himself. Can Mr. Woodburn say that, as Chief Commissioner, he himself came into personal contact with the Maharaja so often as to be able to know what his character and temperament were? Did the Political Agent never tell him anything about the Maharaja's character and conduct? If not, was it then from inner consciousness that the Chief Commissioner formed an estimate of the Maharaja's character and temper, and imposed additional restrictions upon him?

To take one's subordinates under one's sheltering wings is, no doubt, a noble trait in a man's character, and the former Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces is to be commended for thus exonerating his subordinate, the Political Agent. But in proving his subordinate innocent, he has taken the guilt upon his own shoulders, and has made himself accountable for the lives of the Maharaja and the Maharani.

The Political Agent "reported that he had reason to believe that the immediate cause which led the Maharaja to shoot his wife was her refusal to give him Rs. 20,000 from her private purse for the purpose of a trip to England." If the circumstances of this tragedy had formed the subject of an inquest, would the Coroner and his jury have accepted such uncorroborated testimony from the Political Agent, who would have been looked upon as the chief culprit in such an inquest? The Home Member said that the Government of India had no information which could lead them to doubt the correctness of this report. But such information came to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and was published by that paper. Mr. Woodburn's explanation has not satisfied the public, who still wish the Government to hold an enquiry into the affair.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Hublul Mateen* of the 29th January says that a Civilian has embraced the Muhammadan faith in Ceylon. But his embracing of this religion has resulted in his dismissal from the public service, although he served the Government for 20 years. Appointments to, and dismissals from, the public service are regulated by certain fixed rules. If to change one's religion is a crime, why are the missionaries not punished for converting people to Christianity?

HUBLUL MATEEN,  
Jan. 29th, 1896.

45. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 7th February writes as follows:—  
The new Lieutenant-Governor. The Lieutenant-Governor is already growing popular. The other day he was invited to a dinner party by Raja Sourindra Mohan Tagore, and a few days ago he was entertained by Babu Ramanath Ghosh. Raja Binaya Krishna and a Goswami millionaire of Serampur have also invited him to similar entertainments, and their example may be followed by others. Why is this so? Why are the people so anxious to do honour to the new Lieutenant-Governor?

SULABH DAINIK,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

The reason is not far to seek. In the first place, the people feel it a great relief to have Sir Alexander Mackenzie for their Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Charles Elliott made matters too hot for the people. The Bengalis were his eyesore, and he never wished them well. But Sir Charles Elliott is gone, and in his place the Bengalis have got Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who is dear to them all, who once told a Bengali gentleman that it gave him very great pleasure to talk to him in Bengali. So great is the joy of the people that it is seeking expression in merry-making and entertainments. They expect a good deal from Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who is a disciple of Sir Ashley Eden, and who, during the Ilbert Bill controversy, was a tower of strength to Lord Ripon. The new Lieutenant-Governor has already in some measure fulfilled the expectations of the people. He has already given proofs of his sense of justice and impartiality, by making the Magistrate of Nadia withdraw his insulting letter to the local Municipal Commissioners, by rescinding the order of his predecessor preventing fishermen from fishing in the waters of the Sundarbans without licenses, and lastly, by protesting in a dignified manner against the passing of the Cotton Duties and Tariff Acts Amendments Bills. For all these kind acts the people of Bengal are grateful to their Lieutenant-Governor, and grateful as they are by nature, their gratitude has now broken the bonds of conventionalism, and is flowing in a hundred channels. For a long time it was not given to them to give vent to grateful feelings. The occasion for so doing has now come. The people have no doubt that they will live happily under Sir Alexander Mackenzie's rule, and that even his greatest severity will not be a hundredth part of that of his predecessor.

The writer concludes his observations thus:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie, you are now the ruler of Bengal. The people entertain great expectations of you. Let not their expectations be falsified.

They do not ask you to show them any partiality. Only do justice to them. Hold the scales of justice evenly between the contending sections among them; and if in dealing out even-handed justice you are compelled to do the people harm, they will not complain or fret or grumble, but will ever remain grateful to you for the assertion and upholding of that justice which they have not had the good fortune to experience for a long time. Subvert the misguided policy of Sir Charles Elliott and you will entitle yourself to the gratitude of the people and your memory will ever remain enshrined in their hearts.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 7th, 1896.

46. The *Hitavadi* of the 7th February writes as follows:—

Indigo oppression in Bettiah. Who shall say that indigo-oppression in Bengal is a thing of the past? We learn from a trustworthy correspondent that, oppressed by indigo-planters, a Brahmin came to seek the protection of the Maharani of Bettiah. But the servants of the Maharani refused to inform her of his tale of distress. Driven to despair, the man wounded himself in the belly, and now lies in a precarious state. The oppression must be very great indeed, which drives a man to attempt suicide. Oppression committed on the poor and the uneducated seldom reaches the public ears. Though, on the whole, we are living in a peaceful kingdom, few can know of individual miseries of this nature.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 8th, 1896.

47. The *Sanjivani* of the 8th February is glad to understand that the Lieutenant-Governor has refused to sanction the proposal of the marriage of the Maharaja of Burdwan, on the ground that he is too young to marry.

SANJIVANI.

48. The same paper publishes the following letter from one Bhuban, who has been sent as a cooly to a tea-garden in Assam:—

An instance of cooly-recruiting abuse. My name is Srimati Bhuban Tanti. My father's name is Raj Chandra Tanti, and my husband's name was Govind Chandra Mondal. My native village is Sejna, in thana Vishnupur. I do not know the name of the district. I have a brother-in-law (sister's husband) of the name of Vaishnav Das Bairagi at Chetla, in the 24-Parganas district.

One day I left my native village to go to Chetla. On the way I met one Sasikumar Chakravarti of our village, who proposed to take me to my destination. I accompanied him, and after walking a long distance I told him that I could not understand why it was taking us so long to reach Chetla. He answered that we had taken a roundabout route, and then he took a train. I told him that I had never before had to take a train to go to Chetla. Some time passed, but the train did not reach Chetla. Sasikumar said, apparently in surprise, that we had taken the train to Purulia. He then took me to one Haran Chandra Mitra who has a cooly depôt at Assensole. After five days Sasikumar told me that I should not fear anything. Babu Haran Chandra Mitra was a good man, and he would send me to Chetla at his own cost. Saying this he left, and Haran Chandra lodged me at his cooly depôt. I was also told that if the *Burra Sahib* of the Railway asked me if I was willing to go, I should answer in the affirmative, as otherwise I should not get a free railway pass. I did exactly what I was told to do, and great was my surprise when I learnt that I was a cooly under a contract of service for four years. No contract was ever read out to me, nor was I asked to sign any contract. I am now serving out my turn as a contract cooly in the Rajnagar tea-garden under the jurisdiction of Rajnagar thana in south Sylhet, Assam. I am in great distress, and if I am not set at liberty, I shall commit suicide. Please convey my news to my brother-in-law, Vaishnav Das Bairagi, of Chetla.

DAINIK BHARAT  
MITRA,  
Feb. 9th, 1896.

49. It appears to the *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 9th February, from the reply of the Lieutenant-Governor to the address of the Musalman community, that he does not like flattery. He painly told them that their address was full of sweet words, but he was not to be led away by them. The writer is sure that His Honour will deal impartially with all his subjects. He advised the Musalmans to learn to help themselves, if they wished that the Government should help them.

BANGANIVASI,  
Feb. 9th, 1896.

50. The *Banganivasi* of the 9th February has the following:—

Boycotting Lancashire.

The Cotton Duties and Tariff Bills have been passed. The people of India have now come to

understand that they will never be allowed by the Government to successfully carry on an industry in which Englishmen have an interest, and in which their interest is likely to clash with that of the Indian people. An Englishman loses his self-control when he finds his interest jeopardised. And he then becomes incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong, between justice and injustice. But England is pre-eminently a manufacturing and commercial country, and India must put up with her tyranny in commerce and manufacture so long as the English people will lord it over her children.

But there is a saying that even an ant, when trampled upon, bites. It is true that the loyal people of India, with whom it is not only a principle, but an instinct to worship their sovereign as a good, will never rise against the Government. There is no Hampden or Wallace among them. But discontent has certainly been created in their mind, and it will grow and spread so long as justice is not done to them.

The people of Bombay have made up their mind to boycott Lancashire, and in this way to teach her a salutary lesson. It is to be hoped that all India will join this movement. In Europe it is a practice with one nation to boycott another when there is a quarrel between the two. Recently there has been a straining of relations between England and Germany, and the English people have proposed to boycott the Germans. German traders in England have lost half their custom. Not long ago there was a quarrel between England and Portugal, and the latter country boycotted the former. Boycotting is a practice not unknown in Europe. And will the Indian people, who are trying their best to follow in the wake of Englishmen, and are imitating their manners and customs with a whole heart, fail to imitate English patriotism? If they do, we shall know it for certain that European civilization has completely spoiled them, have ruined them materially as well as spiritually. We shall know that they deserve to be ill-treated. Those who do not know how to protect themselves should not long expect to hold their own in the struggle for existence.

But the seed has at last been sown. It will soon sprout forth into a plant. Let us water that plant when it grows, tend it, nourish it, and who can say that it will not some day grow into a large tree and bear fruit? Are there not half a dozen earnest, self-denying men in this vast country who can take the lead in this movement? We appeal to the Indian people one and all, be they Hindu, or Musalman, or Christian, to join this noble, this patriotic, this godly movement. It is a just cause that we ask them to espouse. There is no fighting here, no bloodshed. What is wanted is self sacrifice, sympathy and brotherly love—*patriotism* and not rebellion.

51. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 11th February has the following:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Muhammadan community.

It is after many years that Bengal has been fortunate enough to get a worthy ruler. The nobleness and sense of justice which have been

displayed by the new Lieutenant-Governor within this short time encourage the belief that the evil days of the Bengalis are over.

Lately, in reply to the Muhammadan community's address, in which special favours were asked for that community, the Lieutenant-Governor in soft and sweet words reminded the deputation of the good that is derived from self-help, and told them that the Musalmans were loyal, but there were others who were also loyal. The people of Bengal cannot say how grateful they feel to the new Lieutenant-Governor for saying this last thing. All through the five years of Sir Charles Elliott's rule the Hindus heard themselves called rebels, black heathens and nefarious conspirators, and the Musalmans praised for their loyalty. The Hindus did not grudge the Musalmans the praise which they received from Sir Charles Elliott, but they were sorry for the unmerited abuse which was showered upon them. The new Lieutenant-Governor, it is quite clear, will not follow the policy of creating enmity and dissension between Hindus and Musalmans, and he therefore uttered the invaluable words that there were other subjects of Her Majesty as loyal as the Muhammadans. The Hindus are glad that they have at last been recognised as loyal subjects of Her Majesty, and would advise the Muhammadans to take Sir Alexander Mackenzie's counsel in good part, and remember the adage—"Heaven helps those who help themselves."

SULABH DAINIK,  
Feb. 11th, 1896.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Feb. 12th, 1896.

52. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 12th February is glad to understand that Mr. Toynbee, Commissioner of Bhagalpur, is taking an interest in the Leper Asylum at Baidyanath, and has promised to do all he can to promote its welfare. The writer, however, would not approve of Mr. Toynbee's calling for subscriptions from the Indian Chiefs in his official capacity.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK-O-  
SRIHATTAVASI,  
For the first fortnight  
of Magh, 1302B.S.

53. The *Paridarsak-o-Srihattavasi* for the first fortnight of Magh, 1302 B. S. has the following in English:—

The Provincial Service in Assam.

The Provincial Service in Assam consists of Extra Assistant Commissioners only. Their number is not large. In going over the Civil List of the current year we found them to be only 29. In the course of this article we intend to make a few observations with regard to the mode of their recruitment. In the Manual of Executive Rules, Assam, Chapter IV, page 187, paragraph 36, we find it provided that the selections for the appointments of Extra Assistant Commissioners will ordinarily be made from amongst the following persons:—

- (a) Sub-Deputy Collectors eligible under rule (53).
- (b) Graduates of an Indian University or persons who have passed an examination equivalent to that of an Indian University degree.

But unfortunately in recent years the claims of the graduates have been altogether overlooked by the Government of Assam, and the rule in that connection has been honoured more in its breach than in its observance. From 1881 down to 1892 not a single graduate was found qualified to discharge the duties of an Extra Assistant Commissioner and admitted into the Provincial Civil Service. In that year two Muhammadan gentlemen were taken in, one of whom was a Barrister-at-Law. With these solitary exceptions we regret to have to observe that no graduate was appointed as an Extra Assistant Commissioner for the last fourteen years. It is very difficult to account for the retrograde policy of the Government of Assam. It cannot be said that in these days the number of graduates has so fallen off that the Government could not secure the services of any. The Government know, as well as we do, that the best and ablest in the service are from among the graduates. Both Rais Sarat Chandra Banerji and Jogesh Chandra Chatterji Bahadur and Babu Raj Mohan De are, we are glad to be able to observe, graduates, and head the list of the Extra Assistant Commissioners, and yet the Government are, strange to say, averse to take Extra Assistant Commissioners in larger numbers from their class. Again, the Extra Assistant Commissioners in Assam have to discharge the duties of a criminal as well as a civil Judge. Excepting Sylhet, we have munsifs nowhere in Assam. So that Extra Assistant Commissioners in Assam are required to perform the duties for which, in the sister province of Bengal, two sets of officers exist, namely, Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs. It is therefore the bounden duty of the Government to see that the best available men are admitted into this important service, and it is also essentially necessary, in case the Government have any regard for the due administration of justice, that they should be lawyers of some experience. But unfortunately the Government does not seem to be alive to its responsibilities in this direction, for we find that Government has been always anxious to select Extra Assistant Commissioners from Sub-Deputies and Ministerial Officers who cannot be credited with any particular knowledge of law. Of course, there may be one or two solitary exceptions, but they only prove the rule. What we have to suggest to the Government is that a fair proportion of the Extra Assistant Commissioners should be taken from the Bar, if the Government is at all inclined to maintain the efficiency and prestige of the service in question. The Quarterly Civil List referred to above will show how thoughtlessly the claims of the Bar are being ignored. The Sylhet Bar is an instance in point. We find that only two gentlemen, Babus Jagat Bandhu Nag and Nriya Gopal Chatterji, were taken from this Bar in 1877 and 1881 respectively. But both these gentlemen hail from Bengal and are not *bonâ fide* natives of the province. We are not aware when the service in question came into existence, but it is certain that it cannot be less than 50 years old. That being the case, is not this strange that not a single

Sylhet B. L. was found competent enough to get an Extra Assistant Commissionership during this long period? It is very difficult to say why the Local Government should be so indifferent to the claims of the Sylhet B. L's. Some say it has got abroad somehow or other that Sylhet people are not inclined to serve outside their own native district. But that this assertion has no foundation in truth will appear from the fact that the Sylhet people are serving almost in every district in Assam. We therefore appeal to the Local Government, presided over as it is by a gentleman of Mr. Ward's judicial experience, to do all that he can to strengthen this important service and add to its efficiency and usefulness. In conclusion, we also have to observe that due weight should be given to the policy that had been deliberately adopted by the Local Governments all over India, that the natives of the province should have *cæteris paribus* preference over strangers. In conclusion, we have to thank the Government of Assam for the recent promotion of our esteemed friend, Girish Ch. Nag, M.A., B.L., to an officiating Extra Assistant Commissionership. He is a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University. He stood first in M. A. We are sorry that he was not taken Extra Assistant Commissioner at once. However, his recent promotion will be hailed with delight by the people of Sylhet.

54. The same paper complains that the present arrangement for the Administration of civil justice in Sylhet. administration of civil justice in Assam is not satisfactory. There is only a Sub-Judge of the lowest class in Sylhet to try cases in which the claims exceeds one thousand rupees. The Sub-Judge works hard, but cannot still cope with the heavy work. Cases have thus to be continually postponed, and this puts suitors to great trouble and expense. There are cases pending in the Court for two or three years, the parties to some of which have died, and the cases are being conducted by their legal representatives. An Additional Sub-Judge is, therefore, badly wanted in Sylhet. The appointment of an Additional Sub-Judge will cost the Government between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 a year, and the Government should not grudge this additional expense, considering that about a lakh of rupees is realised by the sale of court-fee stamps in Sylhet alone. The Government should not be guided by commercial instincts in administering civil justice. The present Chief Commissioner of Assam possesses ripe judicial experience, and he ought to signalise the close of his rule by placing the administration of civil justice in Assam on a better footing. If, however, the Government is not willing to appoint an Additional Sub-Judge, it should let Sylhet have the benefit of the experience of a first class Sub-Judge, and see if he cannot cope with the work more successfully, than a Sub-Judge of the lowest class.

55. There is one thing to be noticed, observes the same paper, in connection with the spread of primary education in Assam. Primary education in Assam. The boys of the agriculturists who read in the primary schools have not the means to receive high education. At the same time the little book knowledge that they manage to acquire in their schools makes them averse to their ancestral callings. How are these boys to be provided for when they will grow to be men? The Government should open technical schools for them. There are technical schools in Bengal, Bombay and other Provinces. Why should not Assam have technical schools?

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 15th February 1896.

PARIKARSHAK-  
SRIHATTAVASL  
For the first fortnight  
of Magh, 1302 B.S.

PARIKARSHAK-  
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